

Message Text

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14

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0626

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2264

BELGRADE FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN FROM AMBASSADOR AUSTAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, EEWT, FI, YO, KS (YOON, KYUNG DO)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. DURING A RECEPTION AT THIS EMBASSY, SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
YOON ENCOUNTERED YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR OBRADOVIC AND EXPRESSED

A DESIRE TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA. AMBASSADOR OBRADOVIC AGREED TO
BE OF ASSISTANCE. ON NOVEMBER 8, AT(THE URGENT SUGGESTION
OF HIS GOVERNMENT, AMBASSADOR YOON IS GOING TO BELGRADE. IN
A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH ME, AMBASSADOR YOON INDICATED HIS
PURPOSE WAS OSTENSIBLY TO SIGHTSEE BUT HAD HIGH HOPES OF
VISITING WITH COMMERCE AND TRADE PEOPLE BOTH IN AND OUT OF
GOVERNMENT IN THE HOPE OF PUTTING A FOOT IN THE DOOR IN THAT
FIELD.

(HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST STEMS FROM FACT THAT YOON
FIRST SOUTH KOREAN TO BE GIVEN YUGOSLAV VISA).

2. AMBASSADOR YOON RECALLED A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE

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AS HE WAS THE FIRST OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO VISIT YEMEN. THERE
THE NORTH KOREANS WERE WAITING FOR HIM AT THE AIRPORT,
JOSTLED HIM ABOUT CONSIDERABLY AND HE HAD TO EXIT THROUGH
A REAR DOOR AT THE AIRPORT. ON THE WAY TO HIS HOTEL, HIS

CAR WAS FORCED OFF THE ROAD AT HIGH SPEEDS IN AN EFFORT TO
END HIS LIFE. FURTHER JOSTLING TOOK PLACE AT THE HOTEL WHERE
HE WAS GIVEN SEVERAL RATHER STOUT PUNCHES IN THE RIBS. AS
A RESULT, THE YEMEN GOVERNMENT ORIGINALLY ASKED TEN NORTH
KOREAN DIPLOMATS TO LEAVE. AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHINESE

AMBASSADOR THERE, THE YEMEN GOVERNMENT REDUCED THE NUMBER TO
ONE.

3. A BIT OF IRONY IS THE FACT THAT THE SAME CHINESE
AMBASSADOR NOW SERVES HIS GOVERNMENT IN HELSINKI.

4. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR YOON WILL BE STAYING AT THE
BEST HOTEL IN BELGRADE AND WOULD BE AMENABLE TO ANY
ASSISTANCE AMERICAN ECONOMIC OFFICERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE.
HE EXPRESSED PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE
GIVEN HIM WHEN HE HAD PROBLEMS IN YEMEN. HE IS NOT ANTICIPATING
SIMILAR
TROUBLES BUT SIMPLY ASKED THAT OUR PEOPLE BE ALERTED.
AUSTAD

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